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PROCESS OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REGIONAL APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL SECURITY

Letter dated 6 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission

I have the honour to refer to the Disarmament Commission's provisional agenda for the 1993 substantive session which has been circulated as document A/CN.10/L.32 dated 14 April 1993.

With specific reference to items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons" and "Regional approach to disarmament within the context of global security", I have the honour to transmit to you a statement by the South African Government regarding the intention of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Disarmament Commission.

(Signed) V. W. R. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

STATEMENT OF 6 MAY 1993 BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE INTENTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO WITHDRAW FROM THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

Since its accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), South Africa has strictly adhered to the conditions of the NPT and has maintained a policy of transparency and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It regards the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Safeguards Agreements which States parties conclude in terms thereof with the IAEA as important instruments in assuring and maintaining global peace and security. It has therefore learnt with concern of the intention of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the NPT.

This action will not only jeopardize stability on the Korean peninsula, which has improved in recent years, but will also undermine efforts to implement the North-South Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The South African Government herewith urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its decision as regards the NPT and its IAEA Safeguards obligations.

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